

(Washington, DC) – Rep. Rush Holt (NJ-12) today announced that the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) has awarded the Tinton Falls Fire District #1 \$103,693 in federal funding to help equip the department's personnel. The fire department successfully applied for the grant through DHS's "Assistance to Firefighters Grants" (AFG) program. Every year, Holt hosts a "Fire Grant Workshop" to assist fire departments in Central New Jersey apply for grant funding. Tinton Falls had previously participated in Holt's workshops.

"The Assistance to Firefighters Grants program provides direct support to fire departments seeking to improve their first responders' preparedness and ability to protect the health and safety of the public," Holt said. "I am always pleased to see local first responders obtain the funding they need to serve our communities, and am glad to see the Tinton Falls Fire District receive this funding."

Said Thomas R. Wieczerszak, Fire Commissioner of Tinton Falls Fire District #1: "Our fire district has over 65 members and continues its efforts to expand as the demands on the department grow based on the growth and development of our Borough. The funding we received from the Federal Fire Grant Program is truly the only way to fund a project like this to outfit as many firefighters that need to be fitted with new, compliant gear. I thank Representative Holt for all of his hard work and his dedication to keeping First Responders in New Jersey properly funded,"

The grant was awarded to the Tinton Falls Fire District #1 through a competitive process in which applications were evaluated by experts in fire service.

The Fire District will use the grant funding to purchase sets of turnout gear, which is the personal protective gear that firefighters wear during operations at an emergency scene from fires to motor vehicle accidents. These turnout gear components include pants, jacket, boots, helmet, gloves and hood. According to Wieczerszak, turnout gear is the most expensive equipment the district has to buy on an annual basis, and it is the most important as it protects personnel.

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